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An unexpected detour for Bulldog Troop

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ABU HISHMA, Iraq (Feb. 8, 2006) -- Leaving the gates of Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Bulldog Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry was prepared to conduct a routine mission of route clearance. But, as the HUMVEE patrol entered the town of Abu Hishma, a pick-up truck sped away -- leading to a short-lived chase and apprehension.

When the white vehicle did not stop and yield to the patrol, it became suspicious enough to warrant stopping, questioning the occupants and searching the vehicle.

"We got a lot of off the wall stories from all three of the males," said Sgt. Herman Herrera, the Troop's NBC NCO who helped question the occupants of the truck.

Although the patrol found nothing suspicious inside the vehicle or on any of the three occupants, some information was gathered.

"We questioned them, got pictures, names, where they lived and then sent them on their way," Herrera said.

This information could prove useful for a later patrol should any of these individuals be involved in other suspicious activity.

Following this unexpected detour, the patrol continued with the scheduled mission of clearing an often-used Alternate Supply Route and preventing additional improvised explosive devices from being placed.

"The constant presence, from what I feel, is the more time you're out there, they see you, they're not going to place IEDs or they're not going to fire their mortars," Herrera said.

In addition to traversing the roads, Bulldog Troop emplaced an anti-IED tool of their own. A three-member dismount team scanned the road in the event that Anti Iraqi forces were working outside the eyes of the moving patrol.

“The goal was to ... prevent IEDs being emplaced and see if we noticed anybody with suspicious activity,” said Sgt. Bradley Beazer, the dismount team chief, Bulldog Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “Depending on where it’s at and how far we are from EOD, if we can take care of it, we will put fire onto the people that are trying to plant IEDs or we’ll call the other trucks up to maneuver onto the insurgents.”

As the mission wound down, and another group prepared to patrol the area, this group of Soldiers felt confident their presence is making a difference.

“The more time we have out there the better,” Herrera said. “(I think) it’s very successful ... we’re doing a good job”



Sgt. Jess Seiwert, a gunner from Bulldog Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stands in the gunner’s hatch of a Humvee during a night mission to clean an often-used supply route. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, Feb. 8, 2006)



Pfc. Christopher Gipson, a gunner from Bulldog Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducts a pre-mission check on one of his sights. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, Feb. 8, 2006)